

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

E. Keller

NCPC File No. 6899



FORT DETRICK UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON – FOREST GLEN SECTION BUILDING 503 SECURITY SCREENING ADDITION

Silver Spring, Montgomery County, Maryland

Submitted by the Department of the Army

December 31, 2008

Abstract

The Army has submitted preliminary and final site and building plans for a 1,050 square-foot security screening addition for the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR) Building 503. Building 503 is the largest structure at the Forest Glen complex.

Commission Action Requested by Applicant

Approval of preliminary and final site and building plans, pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1).

Executive Director's Recommendation

The Commission:

- **Approves** the preliminary and final site and building plans for the Fort Detrick United States Army Garrison – Forest Glen Section, Building 503 Security Screening Addition, as shown on NCPC Map File No. 3102.10 (38.40)42669.

* * *

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Site

The Forest Glen Section of the newly organized (October 2008) Fort Detrick Army Garrison in Montgomery County, Maryland, is approximately three miles north of the Walter Reed Army Medical Center Main Section in the District of Columbia. The Forest Glen Section occupies approximately 127 acres and has about 39 permanent structures, with approximately 964,700 net square feet of space located within the property.

Forest Glen is an Army facility that functions primarily as a research and development area for Fort Detrick and contains the tenant organizations of the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR), the Naval Medical Research Center, and the Patient Simulation Center. Also located at Forest Glen are the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology warehouse facility, the Army Biomechanical Research Laboratory, the Armed Forces Pest Management Board, several outdoor recreation areas, a motor pool operation, a laundry facility, a childcare center, and a Post Exchange/commissary. The retail areas serve Walter Reed service personnel, the National Naval Medical Center service members, and retired military personnel of the Washington area.

The WRAIR Building 503 is the oldest, largest and most varied-mission medical research laboratory in the U.S. Army. Its three major mission goals are to counter threats from (1) naturally occurring infectious disease, (2) high energy and trauma wounding of personnel, and (3) stress and performance evaluation of the human body in response to various environmental conditions found in warfare environments. The existing structure is internal to the Forest Glen Post and has no public space adjacent or near the building, nor is it publicly visible at or near the post boundaries. The proposed addition demonstrates the same site conditions.

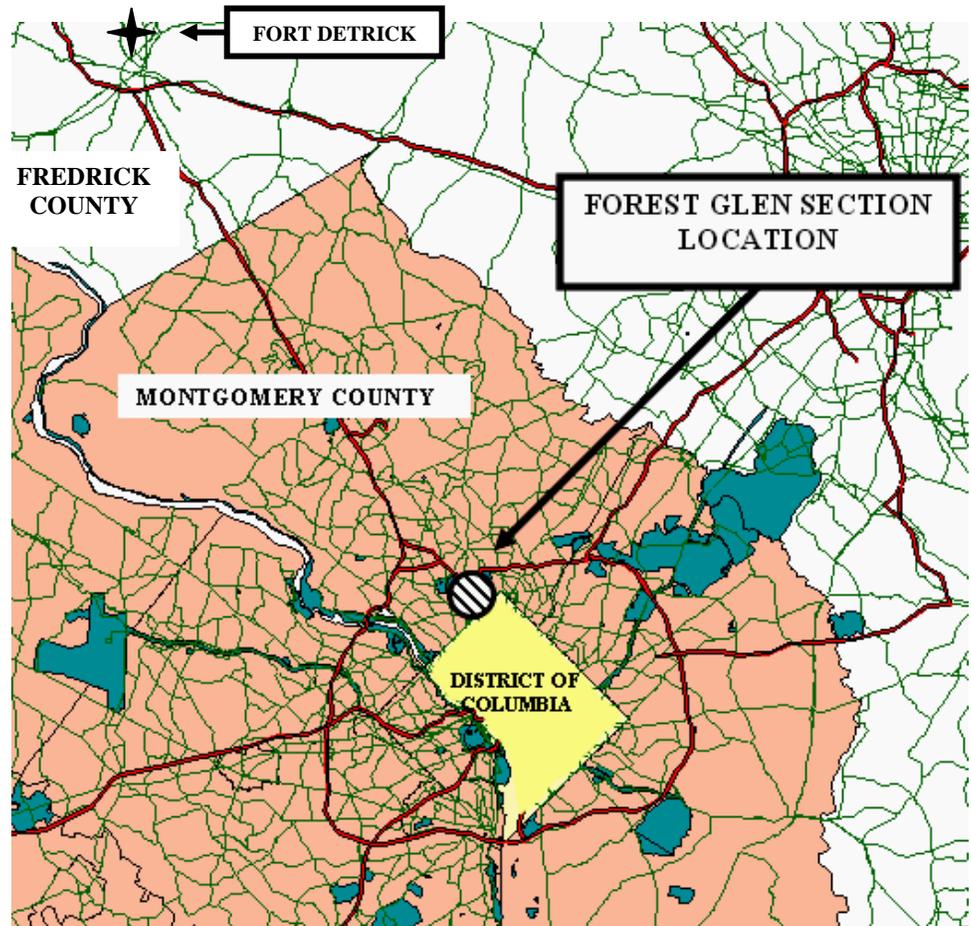
Background

The Forest Glen Section has undertaken prior master planning efforts with a plan developed in late 2002 and approved by the Commission in 2003. The implementation of the 2003 Forest Glen master plan includes the following actions:

- Repair the Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning System of Building 501.
- Provide final locations and parameters for continued physical security improvements at various entries to Forest Glen.
- Improve traffic circulation within Forest Glen Section.
- Improve the aesthetics, environmental quality, and pedestrian setting of Forest Glen through landscape/streetscape design.
- Replace Veterinary Facilities (potentially to be removed as a planned goal).
- Privatize the utility system.
- Renovate the laundry/fabric care facility.
- Construct a new vehicle wash facility.

Access security improvements were master plan features that were to be implemented for the near-term. This effort entailed permanent construction of several new minimally sized guardhouses, at the three main entry points for the base, which were previously approved by the Commission in July 2002.

In 2005, Forest Glen Section was identified as a receiving Post for Army realignment actions under BRAC Army activities and consolidation of some of the Post activities with Fort Detrick Army Garrison in Frederick County, Maryland. An updated master plan is underway to achieve the new planning for accommodating the realignment actions. An Environmental Assessment of the BRAC activities for Forest Glen was completed in August 2008, but the subsequent Finding has not been finalized.



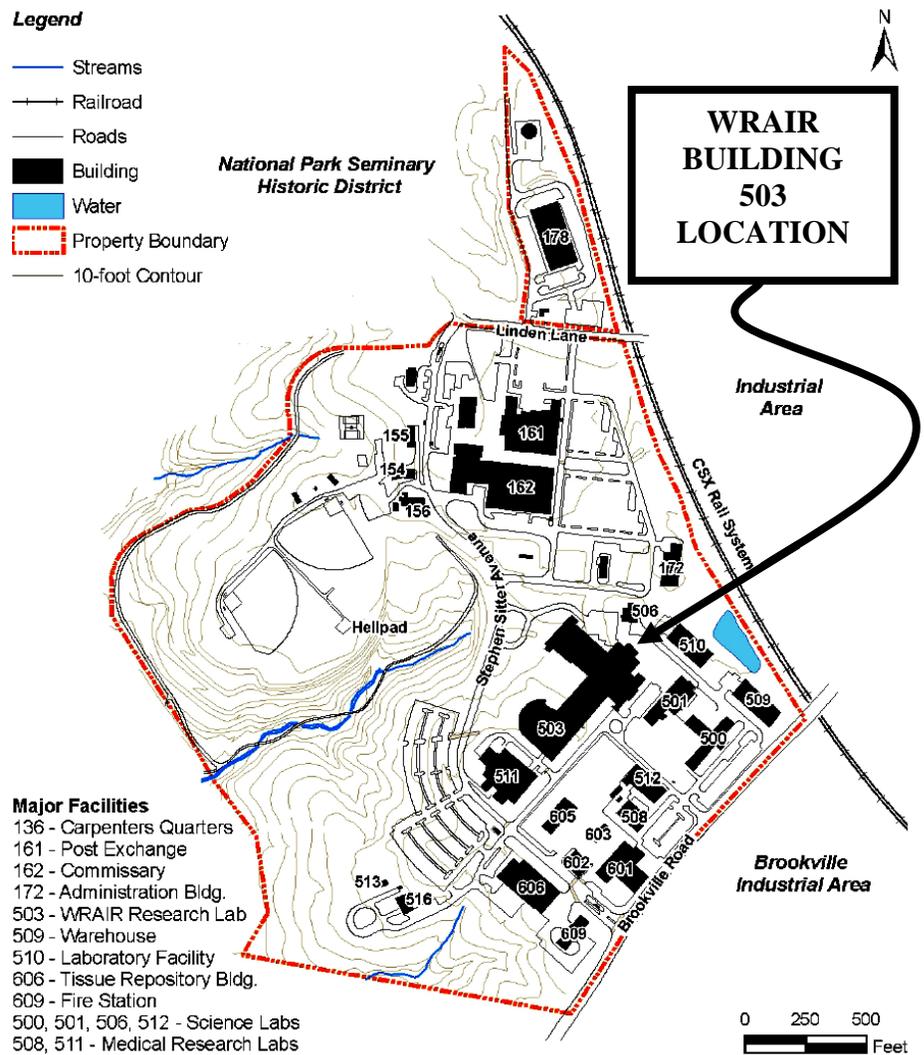
REGIONAL LOCATION

Proposal

Independent of BRAC action and realignment, the U.S. Army also recently undertook risk assessments for the Forest Glen Section research laboratories and all Army labs in the United States. The result of the risk assessment found the need to develop new security protocols and standards for Army laboratory facilities. The risk assessment for the WRAIR Building 503 determined vulnerabilities to the entrance area of the facility. Consequently, the criteria specified by Army Regulation 190-17, Biological Select Agents and Toxins Security Program, is to be implemented by the submitted proposal.

The applicant proposes to construct a small vestibule addition to the entrance area of the WRAIR building to meet new U.S. Army security requirements for high-risk research and laboratory facilities dealing with biological and hazardous materials. The building addition complies with the Installation Design Guide and consists of concrete, reinforced metal panels, and reinforced glazing similar to the materials of the current Building 503 design.

The proposed addition is located within an existing bay of the building's entrance area. The internal space of the pedestrian screening area includes: two x-ray machines, metal detectors, personnel holding area with card readers, guard station, and interlocking doors.



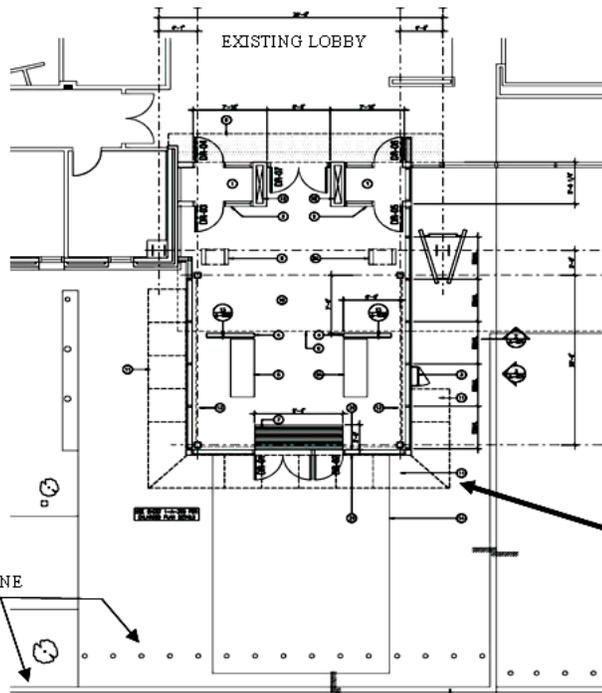
SITE PLAN OF MAJOR FACILITIES AT FOREST GLEN SECTION, INDICATING LOCATION OF WRAIR BUILDING

The height of the structure is approximately eighteen feet and is consistent with the scale of the building front façade. The main visitor doorway to the screening area is placed to the front of the building and can be accessed from the existing surrounding sidewalk. The structure is designed to withstand biological and explosive intrusion.

The new addition's interior site location would have no effect on the character of the National Park Seminary at Forest Glen, which is no longer Army property and is situated well beyond the current Post boundaries.



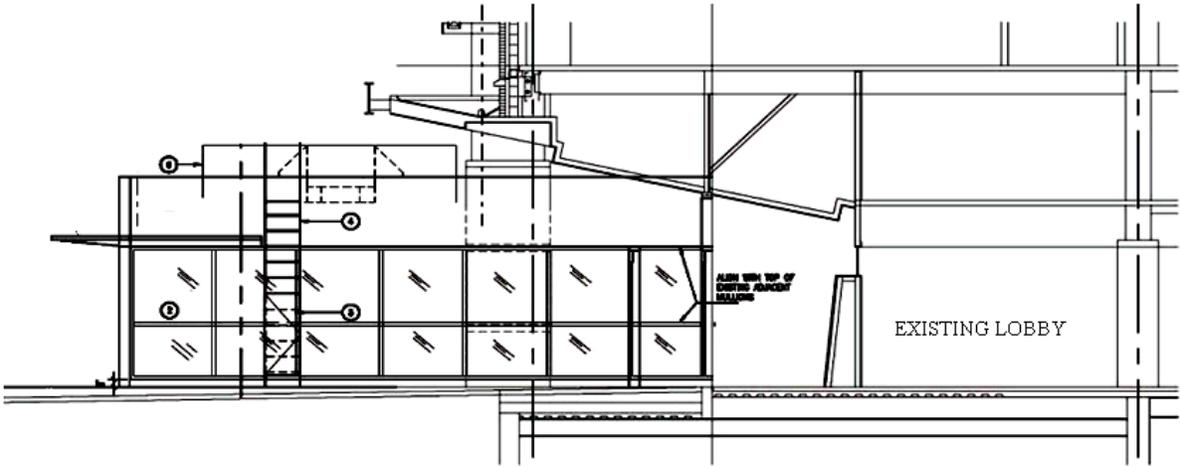
EXISTING BUILDING 503 ENTRANCE



**BUILDING 503
VESTIBULE
ADDITION
FLOOR PLAN**

EXISTING CURBLINE
AND BOLLARDS

**ADDITION
LOCATION**



ADDITION NORTH ELEVATION AND EXISTING LOBBY SECTION



SIMULATED VIEW OF ADDITION'S FINAL DESIGN

Development Program

Applicant: Department of the Army, Fort Detrick Garrison

Estimated Cost: The addition has an estimated cost of \$1.7 million dollars

Architect: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore, Maryland

PROJECT ANALYSIS

Executive Summary

Staff supports the preliminary and final site and building design plans for this proposal to upgrade security for this federal research laboratory. The 1,050 square-foot addition complies with the Garrison Installation Design Guide specifying similar materials for use at the current Building 503. The vestibule modifications fit the scale of the building, while not being overbearing to the pedestrian entrance pathways to the main structure. As Building 503 is located totally within the Forest Glen Post, no public space or public viewsheds are affected by the addition's design and location. **Staff recommends that the Commission approve the preliminary and final site and building plans for the security screening addition.**

CONFORMANCE

Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital

The proposal is not inconsistent with the Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital. The Federal Facilities Element designates the installation for military medical use with special service, training and support purposes. Improvements are consistent with an applicable policy in the Federal Facilities Element of the Comprehensive Plan, which specifies:

Federal military research facilities should locate:

- In areas permitting industrial or warehouse type uses in accordance with official local land use plans.
- On sites away from major population concentrations.
- On sites protected by adequate protective buffers.

As the 27-acre National Park Seminary Historic District of Forest Glen has now been excessed from the needs of the Army, no historic properties would be impacted by the project.

Federal Capital Improvements Plan

The recently approved September 2009-2014 Federal Capital Improvements Plan (FCIP) does not include this project since it is being developed from non-recurring maintenance funding sources.

National Capital Urban Design and Security Plan

The project complies with the objectives and standards of the Commission's Urban Design and Security Plan policies because no part of the proposal impacts public space.

Relevant Federal Facility Master Plan

A master plan was approved by the Commission for the Forest Glen Section in June 2003. The project is consistent with the master plan.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

The Army has reviewed the action pursuant to its environmental regulations (32 CFR, Part 651, Appendix B, Section 2), item (c) (1) and has determined the proposal is a Categorical Exclusion under its NEPA procedures.

The project is a proposal outside the District of Columbia and consequently the Commission does not have an independent NEPA responsibility in accordance with NCPC Environmental and Historic Preservation Policies and Procedures. Staff has reviewed the environmental information provided by the applicant.

National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)

The Army, as lead federal agency for NHPA responsibilities, reviewed the proposal for compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 procedures, and established that Building 503 and its immediate vicinity are not historic resources, since the complex and structure were constructed in 1997, and are not in proximity to any eligible historic or cultural resource.

In the Forest Glen Section Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan, established in November 1999, the Army found that there are no archaeological or National Register-eligible resources at the base. The new addition's interior site location would have no effect on the character of the historic buildings of the National Park Seminary at Forest Glen, which is no longer Army property.

NCPC does not have any NHPA additional actions to take in regard to this project.

CONSULTATION

Referral to relevant local planning agencies

The Army supplied plans to, and reviewed the plans with, the Montgomery County Planning Board staff and the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC). On

November 5, 2008 the M-NCPPC responded with the following comments finding no issues with the project.



MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

REC'D UFW
11-17-08

November 5, 2008

Nino Fleri, Director of Public Works
Department of the Army
Headquarters, United States Garrison
Walter Reed Army Medical Center
6900 Georgia Avenue, Northwest
Washington, DC 20307-5001

Subject: Building 503 Security Screening Upgrade
Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR)
Forest Glen Section
Silver Spring, MD

Dear Nino Fleri:

In response to your request, the Montgomery County Planning Department has reviewed the Mandatory Referral for Building 503 Screening Building Addition. This project is a self-supporting vestibule screening area addition (approximately 30' X 35') to existing Building 503.

The purpose of the addition is to enable WRAIR to screen all personnel and visitors arriving and exiting the facility. The addition is located in a central location of the medical center, and the addition will not be visible from the adjacent residential community. The project will not generate a substantial number of additional trips. The design of the vestibule matches the materials of the existing building.

The Montgomery County Planning Department approves the Mandatory Referral for the vestibule screening area addition to Building 503.

Sincerely:

John A. Carter, Chief
Urban Design and Preservation Division

Attachments:

- Letter from the Department of the Army
- Project Description, Site Plan and Renderings

G: carter/MR Addition to WRAIR